

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MIGUEL PEREZ

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Miguel Perez upon his appointment to serve as manager of the Altoona Curve for 2021's minor league season, which will be Mr. Perez's 14th season in the Pittsburgh Pirates' system.

Mr. Perez will be the first former Altoona Curve player to serve as the team's manager. Prior to his appointment as manager of the Altoona Curve, he served as a manager for the West Virginia Power, the Greensboro Grasshoppers, and the Bristol Pirates.

Mr. Perez began his career as a baseball player in 2000 with the Cincinnati Reds, and made his major league debut with the Reds in 2005. He played for the Altoona Curve in 2008, 2009, 2012, and 2013. During his tenure with the Altoona Curve, he appeared in 92 games and hit .271 with 36 RBIs.

It is my honor to congratulate Mr. Perez on his appointment as manager of the Altoona Curve and welcome him back to Altoona. As the 2021 season begins, I wish Mr. Perez and the Altoona Curve team a safe, healthy, and successful season ahead.

**EQUALITY ACT**

**HON. SUSAN WILD**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2021*

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, if the Equality Act is signed into law, millions of our fellow Americans will, for the first time, no longer be subject to discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Barriers across our society—in essential areas like housing, employment, credit, and education—will finally come down.

In reflecting on this legislation, I can't help thinking about my uncle Wes, who grew up during the Depression. As a young man, he was never able to come out to his family because he didn't think they'd accept him for it. Later in life, he did come out—living as a proud, gay man in Alabama. He passed away last year, and when I cast my vote for this legislation, I'll be thinking of him.

I'll also be thinking of the many messages I've gotten since I was first sworn in from young LGBTQ people in my community. They've shared their stories with me, and I've been inspired by their courage. I want them to know that this country belongs every bit as much to them—and that they have the right to a life of dignity and respect. That is what's at stake in this vote.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BISHOP CHARLES E. DAVIS

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2021*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the life of an extraordinary and influential figure from Chicago's South Side, Bishop Charles Edward Davis. A native of Leland, Mississippi, Bishop Davis's life was guided by service to his country, his community, and his faith. After graduating high school in 1940, Bishop Davis relocated to Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, at the beginning of the Second Great Migration and the year before the United States entered World War II. Heeding the call to serve his country after the outbreak of war, Bishop Davis joined the U.S. Army at the age of 19, serving as a sergeant. In the Army, Bishop Davis would complete tours of duty in Germany, France, and Holland.

After the war, Bishop Davis would enter the upholstery business with his dear friend Brother James McDonald, a step which would lead him towards his lifetime of faith and good works. Brother McDonald's mother-in-law, Sister Anastasia Anderson, introduced him to the Indiana Avenue Pentecostal Church of God (IPC), and he became a member of the church in 1954 when it was under the pastorate of Elder Charles Ellis.

Recognizing the deep faith, commitment, and talent of Bishop Davis, Elder Ellis's successor, Elder Odee Akines, encouraged the further development of his faith and leadership. With Elder Akines at the helm of IPC, Bishop Davis served as the church's Sunday School superintendent, Young People's Leader, and President of the senior choir. By his side throughout his energetic leadership of the church was Dr. Geraldine Olivia Davis, his dear wife of 43 years until her passing in 1998. Bishop Davis was also a devoted father to a son, Larney Bush, Jr., and a daughter, Yolanda Davis.

After Elder Akines passed away in 1970, Bishop Davis was elected pastor of IPC. Himself a Doctor of Divinity and Master of Theology, Bishop Davis made this a central focus during his leadership of IPC, establishing scholarships and programs for young people seeking to further their educations in both the secular and Christian traditions. In 1986, Bishop Davis was elevated to the Bishopric by the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, serving as a Diocesan Bishop in New York State, Washington State, and Wyoming, eventually accepting a role as Diocesan of the 6th Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, their Illinois District Council, in 2008.

Bishop Davis would come to be widely recognized as one of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World's most exemplary leaders, admired both in Chicago and nationally for his

character and conviction. This caused him to become fondly known as "Chief." Bishop Davis was a mentor to many young people who came to his churches seeking salvation, and always conducted robust community outreach efforts, making sure that his good works did not only benefit IPC, but the entire neighborhood and city. Bishop Davis's work was recognized by the City of Chicago in 1992, when the 3500–3600 block of South Indiana Avenue was named in his honor.

In 2004, Bishop Davis became united in marriage with Dr. Jessie Davis, and they were inseparable from one another, always working together for the spiritual benefit of their community. They would remain by each other's sides until Dr. Davis's death in April of 2020.

Madam Speaker, on February 9th, Bishop Davis was called to heaven after a lifetime of good works. My deepest prayers and sympathies go out to Bishop Davis's family, friends, and the IPC community on the passing of this supremely devoted and talented leader, who gave so much in service to his faith, community, and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAFAEL A. MELGAR

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2021*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Master Sergeant Rafael A. Melgar of Altoona, Pennsylvania on his retirement after 20 years of service in the United States Air Force.

Sergeant Melgar enlisted in the Air Force in 2000. His service has included six years of active duty with the 74th Fighter Squadron, the 23rd Fighter Wing, at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina as an A-10, F-15, and U-2 Avionics Systems Journeyman. He also has served with the 152nd Medical Squadron at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport as a Biomedical Equipment Repair Technician. Currently, he is a Biomedical Equipment Support Specialist at the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Sergeant Melgar deployed in support of Operation: Southern Watch, Operation: Enduring Freedom, and Operation: Iraqi Freedom. During his service, he earned the Air Force Achievement Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

Sergeant Melgar is an outstanding American and Pennsylvanian. It is my honor to recognize his distinguished service to our nation and to our community. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Sergeant Melgar on his retirement and wish him the best as he and his family embark on a new chapter.

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